United Nations S/2004/222

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 March 2004
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, herewith, the text of a communication dated 2 March 2004 I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the Members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**

04-27678 (E) 190304 190304

Annex

Letter dated 2 March 2004 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

[Original: English]

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 1386 and 1510, I attach a report on ISAF operations covering the period 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jaap de **Hoop Scheffer**

Enclosure

Quarterly report to the United Nations on ISAF Operations

1. This report covers the period from 12 November 2003 to 12 February 2004. As of 10 February, ISAF total strength was 6,264 including 233 troops from 11 non-NATO nations.

2. Minister Hikmet Cetin assumed his duty as NATO Senior Civil Representative in Afghanistan on 25 January 2004. He will be responsible for carrying forward the political-military aspects of the Alliance's assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority in fulfilling the Bonn Agreement commitments.

Status of Partner/Non-NATO Contributing Nations

3. As of 10 February, a total of 19 NATO nations and 11 non-NATO nations are contributing to the ISAF mission.

Security

4. The security situation in Kabul and its environs (Kabul Area of Operations) is characterized as generally calm, but not stable. On 27 and 28 January 2004, two suicide attacks occurred against Canadian and United Kingdom ISAF patrols, which resulted in the deaths of one Canadian and one British soldier, with six others ISAF soldiers severely wounded. Numerous warnings continue to be received. Nevertheless, ISAF has continued to execute its framework security tasks in association with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the Kabul City Police (KCP).

5. ISAF has assumed responsibility for the German PRT operations in Konduz on 30 December 2003. The security situation in the Konduz Area of Operations is assessed as calm, but not stable. Although the Opposition Militia Forces (OMF) have no organized presence there, the area is nonetheless of interest to the OMF since it is at the centre of narcotics production. The local infrastructure is fragile, the police have limited authority, and factional/tribal frictions continue to undermine security. Execution of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in Konduz, as one of the Pilot Projects, has led to no significant increase in tension.

Support to the Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA)

A. Support to the Bonn Agreement Process

6. The ISAF assistance to the Bonn Agreement Process includes:

(a) The Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ) was conducted by the ATA from 14 December 2003 to 4 January 2004. ISAF provided second-tier security support to the CLJ and also took a lead in planning by coordinating a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond to any security incidents, an extensive search and explosive ordnance clearance of the site, and Information Operations to the event. ISAF also provided standby emergency medical.

(b) On 30 December 2003, ISAF made the first step in expanding its supporting role to the ATA by taking responsibility for the PRT in Konduz. This will facilitate the expansion of the influence of the ATA into provinces beyond the Capital.

(c) ISAF has been supporting the Voter Registration Process in Kabul since its start on 1 December 2003, with second-tier security support provided on request, within its means and capabilities.

(d) ISAF shares the general concern as to whether the registration process will be sufficiently advanced in time for elections in June 2004. ISAF has nonetheless contributed to the planning process. ISAF's exact role and the nature of the security assistance required, based on the proposed Joint Election Management Body (JEMB) OPLAN, remain to be determined, taking into account the primary role of UNAMA and the ATA in the organization and safety of the election process.

B. Support to Security Sector Reform (SSR)

7. With the addition of Herat and Jalalabad, the DDR process now comprises eight pilot projects.

(a) The ISAF-assisted DDR pilot project in Kabul was completed on 29 January 2004, with 1,797 Afghan Militia Forces (AMF) soldiers formally disarmed. Discussions are currently under way between the Afghan Ministry of Defence and HQ ISAF staff to assess how best to maintain the momentum created by the pilot project so that a smooth transition can be achieved to the more substantial DDR campaign proper.

(b) Pilot projects are ongoing in Konduz and Gardez; preparations for the launch of DDR in Mazar-e-Sharif are well under way, and planning for the Bamyan DDR programme has started. The Pilot Programme in Kandahar is currently scheduled to begin at the end of February.

(c) Although DDR makes provision for heavy weapons, it does not target them specifically. ISAF has initiated a Heavy Weapons Cantonment (HWC) programme to secure heavy weapons from Kabul city and its environs. Planned and executed in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Defence, and gaining broad support, this is a confidence-building measure aimed at both internal and external audiences and will improve the security situation in Kabul. An agreement was signed between ISAF and the Afghan Ministry of Defence on 12 January and the HWC started officially in Kabul on 15 January, with the first convoy movement of heavy weapons. The next HWC project began on 10 February. HWC and DDR programmes continue to run in parallel and are mutually supporting.

8. ISAF continued to support ANA training through the provision of mobile training teams, focusing on training for artillery, EOD and medical care. Embedded training teams and a "mentor" programme will assist the leadership and professional development of ANA Headquarters and counterparts units. Further training opportunities are under consideration.

9. Enhancing the capability and authority of the Afghan national police force remains critical to extending both the rule of law and the authority of the central government. In Kabul, ISAF continues to contribute to the German-led police development programme through joint patrolling and assisting with an internal

organizational review of the KCP. ISAF has also provided basic police and weapon training to the Border Police at Kabul International Airport (KAIA).

10. The Joint Security Coordination Center (JSCC) established under ISAF direction on 22 September 2003 continues to enjoy modest success in encouraging the disparate ATA agencies in Kabul to coordinate on security matters. The order formalizing the JSCC's status combined with ISAF's aggressive lead in bringing the various ATA organizations together promises an improvement in both coordination and ATA-led security operations within Kabul.

11. ISAF supported the United Kingdom-led counter narcotics programme with accommodation and close protection for the teams engaged in training the ATA counter-narcotics forces in Kabul.

12. Judicial reform, essential for the establishment of the rule of law, is critically linked to the Bonn Agreement pillars, particularly for police training and counter narcotics. Additionally, ISAF continues to work closely with the ATA Ministries to identify and address issues that impact directly upon the rule of law.

Attacks against ISAF and ISAF Operational Activities

13. There have been nine attacks on ISAF since 11 November 2003. Five of these attacks, which included rockets and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), occurred in December 2003 with no fatalities. Three attacks occurred in January 2004; explosions south of KAIA and in Kandahar, and two suicide attacks near the Canadian Camp Julien and the United Kingdom Camp Souter killed 17 Afghanis and two ISAF soldiers. On 3 February, there were two explosions from rockets launched from the south-eastern part of Kabul. No casualties or damage were sustained.

14. Germany, as lead nation, has continued to run KAIA since NATO took over the ISAF operation. This airport is used primarily by military or international community contracted aircraft. Currently, commercial use of KAIA is limited to the Afghan national carrier. A common approach of the international community with respect to KAIA's rehabilitation is crucial. In order to expedite this process, NATO will contribute to a framework document created by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the rehabilitation of KAIA. In a next step, the Afghan Authorities' approval for this framework will be sought. A KAIA transition plan has been developed to ensure a phased transition from Germany to NATO. The transition began on 11 February and is schedule to be complete by June 2004.

Outlook

15. Based on UN Security Council Resolution 1510, and as approved by the North Atlantic Council, planning continues on ISAF expansion that will support and strengthen ATA's ability to provide a more secure environment for its people and for its governmental processes. ISAF has continued to fulfil its mandate to assist the ATA in the provision of security in mandated Areas of Operations. There is a risk that the security environment will deteriorate in localized areas, particularly in conjunction with the preparations and conduct of elections planned for Summer 2004. Security in both the Kabul and Konduz Areas of Operations is expected to

improve in the medium and long term. ISAF remains active in SSR, in its support to the ANA and ATA security agencies. Following the success of the Constitutional Loya Jirga, ISAF assistance to the ATA with the Bonn Agreement Process is now focused on the forthcoming elections programme.